Earlier this year, Boulder’s legendary extreme trail runner Bill Briggs challenged Samantha Mangum, Mental Health Partners (MHP) Wellness Coach and extreme mountain climber (she summited Mt. Aconcagua last year to raise funds for MHP’s “End the Stigma” campaign), to a new adventure to raise funds for MHP’s efforts in the community. When fellow MHP team member Christine Dykema heard about the challenge, she suggested proceeds could support MHP’s suicide prevention and education efforts.

Challenge on!

On August 25th, Bill, Sam, and up to eight other two-person teams, will run the Boulder Skyline Traverse, a 16.3 mile that traverses the five peaks that top Boulder’s western landscape, ending at MHP’s Ryan Wellness Center in Boulder. Sam and Bill will both lead two-person teams and the “winner” of the challenge will be the team who receives the most contributions towards the Challenge’s $20,000 goal.

A maximum of ten 2-person teams will compete during the challenge. Eight slots remain for two-person teams, which must be declared by August 1. To register a team, contact Casey Smith at csmith@mhpcolorado.org. There is no entry fee.

Support the team of your choice (or donate to the Challenge in general) at: www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/the-boulder-skyline-traverse-challenge. Donations are being accepted now through August 24th. The Challenge will raise funds for suicide prevention efforts, such as providing additional community training/classes in suicide prevention, developing suicide prevention education resources in Spanish, expanding support groups around loss and interventions/crisis interventions in schools, and developing collateral material.

Also, join us for the Challenge After-Party at 5:00 pm on August 25th at Under the Sun Eatery & Pizzeria (627 South Broadway Street, Boulder, CO 80305) to celebrate the runners with an awards ceremony and to learn about MHP’s upcoming suicide prevention trainings.

Congrats, Elena!

MHP Community Infant Program Psychotherapist Wins Prestigious Award

Elena Aranda, Mental Health Partners (MHP) Community Infant Program (CIP) psychotherapist, was selected to receive the Harmon Award by the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health in recognition of her leadership and contributions that elevate the infant mental health field in Colorado.

As a member of MHP’s CIP team, Elena facilitates empowerment groups for parents and addresses the unique cultural aspects and needs of Latino families. She also is part of the Compañeras program, which promotes the well-being of women, enhances their quality of life while expanding access to educational and cultural programs, develops political consciousness; and collectively mobilizes social justice actions. For the past 12 years the Compañeras program has held an annual summit that attracts hundreds of women and youth.

Elena, who has been in the Boulder community for over 22 years, is a proud mother of three and loves working in the community, side by side with her husband. Please join us in congratulation Elena on receiving this distinguished award!
Mental Health Partners (MHP) is partnering with the City and County of Broomfield’s Police Department to bring the “Early Diversion, Get Engaged” (EDGE) co-responder program to the Broomfield community. EDGE is a law enforcement and behavioral health co-response program that aims to prevent unnecessary incarceration and hospitalization of individuals with a behavioral health issue by diverting the individual into treatment.

This partnership was made possible thanks to an award granted to Broomfield’s City, County and Police Department by Colorado Department of Human Services, Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Partnerships (Co-Responder Services) Program. The project runs from January 2018-June 2019 and, depending on funding, can be renewed up to four-years. Prior to this expansion, EDGE was successfully implemented and scaled in neighboring Boulder County through collaboration with Boulder County Sheriff’s Office, the City of Boulder Police Department, and the City of Longmont Police Department.

Please visit mhpcolorado.org or MHP’s Facebook page (@MentalHealthPartnersCO) for more information.

Celebrating the launch of Broomfield EDGE’s program! [L-R]: Clinician Jack Coffey; Clinician Sadie Keller; EDGE Supervisor Lucy Larbalestier; and Broomfield Police Commander Chris Terry.